

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LISBON 06052 141249Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 141205Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4596
INFO USMISSION NATO
USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T LISBON 6052

EXDIS

DEPT PASS USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS AND USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, PFOR, PO
SUBJECT: PORTUGAL AND NATO SECURITY

REF: STATE 241611 DTG 092350Z OCT 75

1. EMBASSY CONCURS IN GUIDANCE REFTTEL.

2. IN EMBASSY'S JUDGEMENT, IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO START THE
CLOCK TICKING NEEDLESSLY OR PRECIPITOUSLY IN THE MILITARY
COMMITTEE (PARA 3 REFTTEL). FYI - PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES REMAINS
CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES, AS HE HAS BEEN
SINCE APRIL 1974 COUP. AT PRESENT, THE POSITION OF DEFENSE
MINISTER IS UNFILLED WITHIN THE CABINET. HOWEVER, PRIME
MINISTER ADMIRAL PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO HAS JUST BEEN GIVEN A
WATCHING BRIEF OVER THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. THIS IS LARGELY PRO
FORMA, SINCE DEFENSE MINISTRY AND MINISTERS HAVE HAD NO INFLUENCE
IN PORTUGUESE POWER STRUCTURE SINCE COUP. PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES
HAS NEVER ACTED AS DEFENSE MINISTER SINCE 1974 COUP.
END FYI.
CARLUCCI

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.
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NNN

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